

#### ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a fuel additive which can inhibit the emission of harmful gases from a fuel such as gasoline or gas oil without adversely influencing the consumption of the fuel and with which the fuel can be stably stored; and a fuel composition containing the fuel additive added thereto. Also provided are: a method of activating a lower alcohol which comprises bringing the lower alcohol into contact with a substance activated by heating and pressurizing in the presence of wood vinegar and/or bamboo vinegar or with a material formed by processing the substance; a lower alcohol activated by the method; and lower alcohols comprising the activated lower alcohol. The fuel additive comprises the one or more lower alcohols. The fuel composition comprises a fuel and the fuel additive.